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A CHAPTER ON DUELLING.

This custom is nearly allied to war. The former is, in fact, an off-shot of the latter, and rests for its support on the same passions, the same false notions of honor, and the same disregard of law and right. Both alike outrage Christianity, and common sense; and such a change in the public mind as shall abolish war, must, as a natural and inevitable result, put an end to duelling.

DUELS IN ENGLAND.—From the beginning of the reign of George III up to this time, that is, during his reign and those of George IV, William IV, and Victoria, there have been about 200 duels in England. Out of these, in three cases both of the parties were killed; of the balance, 80 were killed, 160 were wounded desperately, 60 slightly, and the remainder escaped uninjured. It is estimated that, in duels generally, about one-fifth of those engaged are killed, and about one-half, more or less severely injured.—Out of all these 200 duels in which were engaged 400 principals, and 400 seconds, 800 in all, there have grown but twenty prosecutions of law; which 20 prosecutions have resulted in 10 acquittals, 6 convictions of manslaughter, and 4 of murder in the first degree. Of the 4 persons convicted, 2 were hanged, and 2 imprisoned. Some of the names standing highest in English history have been engaged in these duels just referred to; such as the Dukes of York, Norfolk and Richmond; Lords Shelburne, Macartney, Exmouth, Townsend, Talbot, Lauderdale, Lonsdale, Malden, Camelford, Paget, Castlereagh, Belgrave, Londonderry; the Duke of Wellington, Pitt, Fox, Sheridan, Canning, Tierney, Sir Francis Burdett, and many others.

HOW THE PILGRIMS SERVED DUELLISTS.—The following account of the first duel fought in New England, and the second political offence committed in the Plymouth Colony, we take from a work entitled, “*The New England Chronology.*” The date of the event is June 8th, 1621.—“The second offence is the first duel fought in New England, upon a challenge to single combat with sword and dagger, between Edward Doty and Edward Leister, *servants* of Mr. Hopkins. Both being wounded, the one in the hand, the other in the thigh, they are adjudged by the whole company to have their heads and feet tied together, and so lie for twenty-four hours, without meat or drink; which is begun to be inflicted. But within an hour, because of their great pains, at their own and their master’s humble request, upon promise of better carriage, they are released by the Governor.”

TRIVIAL CAUSES OF DUELS.—The following extract from “*Charles O’Malley*,” will serve to show from what trifling causes duels often spring; and the same may be said of war, which is only duelling on a large scale.

“‘And Boyle, did you know Sir Harry Boyle?’

‘To be sure I did. Shall I ever forget him, and his capital blunders, that kept me laughing the whole time I was in Ireland? I was in the house when he concluded a panegyric upon a friend, by calling him “the father of the poor, and uncle to Lord Donoughmore.”’

‘He was the only man who could render by a bull what it was impossible to convey more correctly,’ said Power. ‘You have heard of his duel with Harry Tyler.’

‘Never—let’s hear it.’

‘It was a bull from beginning to end. Boyle took it into his head that Harry was a person with whom he had a serious row in Cork. Harry, on the other hand, mistook Boyle for old Caples, whom he had been pursuing with horse-whipping intentions, for some months. They met in Kildare street Club, and very little colloquy satisfied them that they were right in their conjectures, each party being so eagerly ready to meet the views of the other. It never was a difficult matter to find a friend in Dublin; and, to do them justice, Irish seconds, generally speaking, are perfectly free from any

imputation upon the score of good breeding. No men have less impertinent curiosity as to the cause of the quarrel; wisely supposing that the principals know their own affairs best, they cautiously abstain from indulging any prying spirit, but proceed to discharge their functions as best they may. Accordingly, Sir Harry and Dick were set, as the phrase is, at twelve paces; and, to use Boyle's own words, for I heard him relate the story—

'We blazed away, sir, for three rounds. I put two in his hat, and two in his neckcloth; his shots went all through the skirts of my coat.'

'We'll spend the day here,' said Considine 'at this rate: could n't you put them closer?'

'And give us a little more time in the word,' says I.

'Exactly,' said Dick.

'Well, they moved us forward two paces, and set to loading the pistols again.'

'By this time we were so near, that we had a full opportunity to scan each other's faces; well, sir, I stared at him, and he at me.'

'What,' said I.—'Eh,' said he.

'How's this,' said I?—'You're not Billy Caples,' said he.

'Not a bit,' said I; nor I don't think you're Archy Devine. And so it appeared we were fighting away all the morning for nothing; for some how it turned out, *it was neither of us.*'"

DUELING STOCK SINKING IN THE MARKET.—Our correspondent in Warrenton, Abbeyville district, gave us a short time since an account of a barbecue held in honor of a military officer in that district, who had the moral courage to refuse a challenge, and to have the assailing party bound over to keep the peace. The whole proceedings have been published, and they clearly show an amazing depreciation in the public estimation of that honor which was once attached to this mode of settling private quarrels. It is now regarded as disreputable either to give or receive a challenge. Duelling stock is, therefore, not only below par, but gentlemen, who had any connection with it either as principals or seconds, are rather anxious to have that part of their private history cancelled and forgotten.—*Charleston Obs.*

EFFORTS IN ENGLAND FOR THE ABOLITION OF DUELING.—These efforts have of late years increased considerably; and the revengeful, barbarous duel, last year, that terminated in the death of Col. Fawcett by Lieutenant Munroe, gave a fresh impulse to the cause. A very numerous meeting of noblemen and gentlemen was held in London, on the 4th of August, to consider and adopt a memorial to the Queen, asking her to make some decided and public manifestation of her aversion to the unchristian practice of duelling. Viscount Lifford was called to the chair, and among those present were Lord R. Grosvenor, Lord H. Cholmondeley, Sir Edward Parry, three admirals, and a considerable number of army and navy officers. The memorial was read and agreed to, and a deputation appointed to present it. A vote of thanks being moved to the chairman, he stated, in returning thanks for the compliment, that the institution for the suppression of duelling already numbered 416 members, of whom 23 were noblemen, 15 sons of noblemen, 18 members of Parliament, 20 baronets, 35 admirals and generals, 32 colonels, 56 captains in the royal navy, 26 majors, 42 captains in the army, 26 lieutenants, and 28 barristers.

RESULT OF THESE EFFORTS.—In his remarks at the last anniversary of the London Peace Society, CHARLES HINDLEY, M. P., its President, said, "We have lately, in the House of Commons, had a very interesting discussion respecting the propriety of duelling amongst gentlemen of honor. It has been thought that a gentleman of honor, whose character is attacked, or whose motives are impugned, has nothing left in the way of self-defence, but to call upon the person who has thus ill-treated him, to name his second, and then for both of them to proceed to Blackheath, or some other fashionable place for this engagement, and, having filled their pistols with the

requisite shot, attempt to kill each other. I am happy to say, that that practice has been discountenanced by many of the leading members of Parliament. I should be still more happy, if I could say that the root of the iniquity is completely removed from society; but I fear that the opinion is still so strong, that a man who would not venture his life against another, would lose caste in society. I trust, however, this will no longer remain an imputation upon the educated people of our land."

The agitation of the subject among the people, and in Parliament, has led to the adoption of "more stringent regulations" in the Army and the Navy, "for the purpose of more effectually discouraging a practice which is a violation of her Majesty's orders, and a flagrant breach of the law of the land."

In the Army.—"Every officer who shall give or send a challenge, or who shall accept any challenge, to fight a duel with another officer, or who being privy to an intention to fight a duel, shall not take active measures to prevent such duel, or who shall upbraid another for refusing or for not giving a challenge, or who shall reject, or advise the rejection of a reasonable proposition made for the honorable adjustment of a difference, shall be liable, if convicted before a general court-martial, to be cashiered, or suffer such other punishment as the court may award." Articles recently issued by her Majesty's orders from the War Office, declare "that it is suitable to the character of honorable men to apologize and offer redress for wrong or insult committed, and equally so for the party aggrieved to accept, frankly and cordially, explanations and apologies for the same. If such redress be refused to be given, or to be accepted, and the friends of the parties have failed to reconcile the differences, a reference should, in conformity with the signification of her Majesty's pleasure in the 106th article, be made to the commanding officer on the spot, who will use his best advice and influence to reconcile the parties; and the differences having been honorably settled by the good offices and responsibility of the commanding officer, ought never to be revived by either party, or by any other officer, or body of officers; if, however, the commanding officer fail to reconcile the parties, it will become his duty to take such measures as he may deem necessary in order to prevent a duel, or to maintain good order in her Majesty's service, and the person refusing to be reconciled, will be liable to be brought to a court-martial, and, if convicted, cashiered, or suffer such other punishment as the court may award. All parties implicated in duelling are liable, on conviction before a general court-martial, to be cashiered."

In the Navy.—"1. Every officer serving on board any ship or vessel of her Majesty's fleet, is hereby positively ordered neither to send nor accept a challenge to fight a duel with any other person of the fleet.

"2. Every officer of the fleet, on becoming privy to any intention of other officers to fight a duel, or having reason to believe that such is likely to occur, owing to circumstances that have come under his observation or knowledge, is hereby ordered to take every measure within his power to prevent such duel, having recourse, if necessary, to the captain or commanding officer.

"3. Every officer of the fleet is hereby ordered, in no manner or degree, to evince dissatisfaction with, or to upbraid another officer for refusing or not sending a challenge; and all officers are strictly enjoined neither to reject, nor advise the rejection of a reasonable proposition for the honorable adjustment of differences that may have unhappily occurred.

"4. Any officer of the fleet who may be called on to act as second or friend to an officer intending to fight a duel, is to consider it to be his imperative duty, and he is hereby ordered strenuously to exert himself to effect an adjustment between the adverse parties, on terms consistent with the honor of each; and should he fail, owing to the determination of the offended parties not to accept honorable terms of accommodation, he must refer to the second paragraph of this order."